



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - September 26, 2002

- ***In the West***, warm, mostly dry weather favors fieldwork, but emerging ***Northwestern*** winter wheat will soon need rain to promote autumn establishment.
- ***On the Plains***, warm, dry weather favors fieldwork and winter wheat emergence across the ***southern portion of the region***. Meanwhile, light showers dot the drought-affected ***central Plains***, but more rain is needed to ensure proper winter wheat establishment. Elsewhere, very cool weather continues to slow winter wheat emergence on the ***northern Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cool, showery weather continues to slow corn and soybean harvesting in the ***upper Mississippi Valley***, but warm, dry weather elsewhere in the ***Midwest*** favors summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting. Showers are beginning to overspread areas ***south of the Ohio River***, providing additional drought relief and benefiting early-planted soft red winter wheat.
- ***In the South***, Tropical Storm Isidore is centered very near ***New Orleans*** at 7 a.m. CDT after making landfall earlier this morning just west of ***Grand Isle, Louisiana***. Torrential rainfall continues to cause flooding and adversely affect open-boll cotton in the ***central Gulf Coast region***, and locally heavy showers are spreading across areas from the ***Delta to the southern Mid-Atlantic States***.

Outlook: Tropical Storm Isidore will move from the ***Delta*** into the ***Ohio Valley and Northeast***, accompanied by locally heavy rain and gusty winds. Isidore will have a smaller impact farther east, with only scattered showers and thunderstorms across the ***Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States***. Elsewhere, showers will accompany a dissipating frontal boundary in the ***central Plains and upper Midwest***, but a second front will provide showers to the ***northern Rockies*** and ***northern Plains*** by week's end. Dry weather will prevail in the ***Pacific Coast States***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for October 1-5 calls for wetter-than-normal conditions from the ***Carolinas to Maine*** and across the ***northern half of the Plains***, but below-normal precipitation in the ***West*** and from ***Texas to the Great Lakes region***. Below-normal temperatures are expected in the ***northern Rockies, northern and central Plains, and Midwest***, while warm weather is predicted in the ***Southwest, Rio Grande Valley, and western Gulf Coast region***.

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